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Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities
Sixth session
New York, 1-12 August 2005

Note verbale dated 1 February 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to transmit herewith the Casablanca Declaration (see annex), adopted at the conclusion of the regional consultative meeting of Arab States on the comprehensive and integral international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, held in Casablanca, Morocco, from 15 to 17 June 2005, and requests that this letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Ad Hoc Committee.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 1 February 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

Regional consultative meeting of Arab States on the draft international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

Casablanca, 15-17 June 2005

Casablanca Declaration

We, the participants in the regional consultative meeting of Arab States on the draft international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, held at the Sheraton Hotel in Casablanca (Morocco) from 15 to 17 June 2005, representing the Governments, and non-governmental organizations, of Algeria, the Comoros, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, at the invitation of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations and the State Secretariat of Morocco for Family, Children and Disabled Persons, with the support of the Italian Government, and in the presence of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability, with the purpose of debating the content of the convention in relation to the context and the identification of priorities at the regional level, support the initiatives of the United Nations for the promulgation of this convention and stress the following points:

1. We invite all Arab countries to participate in the formulation of, and the discussions on, the content of the draft international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, in partnership with all parties concerned (Governments and organizations representing persons with disabilities);

2. We invite United Nations bodies to enhance regional consultations through these agencies with Member States;

3. We invite the United Nations to take all necessary measures to accelerate the ongoing negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee and the promulgation of the final text of the convention;

4. We affirm the need to include in the convention a specific and separate article on mechanisms to follow up and monitor implementation of the convention at the international, regional and national levels to enable the participation of persons with disabilities and the associations representing them;

5. We stress the need to introduce the concept of inclusive development based on the human rights of persons with disabilities in conjunction with the work of the World Summit to be held in September 2005;

6. We support the proposal for a specific article on international cooperation;

7. We invite the United Nations to endorse and support the Arab Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2004-2013 and to participate in its implementation;

8. We invite non-governmental organizations involved with human rights to recognize and support the international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

9. We stress the need to include in the convention a specific article on women with disabilities and a specific article on children with disabilities.

Casablanca, 17 June 2005